

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 13-24, and add new claims 25-32, as shown below in the detailed listing of all claims which are, or were, in this application:

Claims 1-24 (Cancelled)

25. (New) A composite having a capillary rise of less than 20 mm, the capillary rise being measured according to a T test, said composite being made of at least one fibrous support, excluding any architectural textile, impregnated right to the core with a crosslinked silicone elastomer, wherein said composite is obtained by:

o impregnating the fibrous support by having a silicone composition penetrate into said support under pressure, said silicone composition:

- being crosslinkable into an elastomer
- and which comprises:
 - (a) at least one polyorganosiloxane (POS) having, per molecule, at least two alkenyl, groups linked to the silicon;

- (b) at least one polyorganosiloxane having, per molecule, at least three hydrogen atoms linked to the silicon;
- (c) a catalytically effective quantity of at least one catalyst;
- (d) optionally, at least one adhesion promoter;
- (e) optionally, a mineral filler;
- (f) optionally, at least one crosslinking inhibitor;
- (g) optionally, at least one polyorganosiloxane resin;

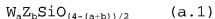
and

- (h) optionally, functional additives in order to impart specific properties;
- which has a dynamic viscosity of between 1000 and 7000 mPa.s at 25°C before crosslinking;
 - and which has, after complete crosslinking by curing in a fan oven for 30 minutes at 150°C, at least one of the following mechanical properties:
 - a Shore A hardness of at least two,
 - a tensile strength of at least 0.5 N.mm⁻¹, and
 - an elongation at break of at least 50%;

o and crosslinking said silicone composition to form a composite comprising a matrix in which said fibrous support is embedded.

26. (New) The composite of claim 25, obtained from an impregnating silicone composition which is fluid, which does not contain a diluent, solvent or emulsifier, and which can impregnate a fibrous material right to the core and then be crosslinked.

27. (New) The composite of claim 25, obtained from an impregnating silicone composition wherein the polyorganosiloxane (a) has units of formula:



in which:

- W is an alkenyl group;
 - Z is a monovalent hydrocarbon group, which has no unfavorable effect on the activity of the catalyst and is chosen from alkyl groups having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms inclusive, optionally substituted with at least one halogen atom, and from aryl groups;
 - a is 1 or 2, b is 0, 1 or 2 and a + b is between 1 and 3;
- and

- optionally, at least one portion of the other units are units of average formula:



in which Z has the same meaning as above and c has a value between 0 and 3.

28. (New) The composite of claim 25, obtained from an impregnating silicone composition wherein the polyorganosiloxane (b) contains siloxyl units of formula:



in which:

- L is a monovalent hydrocarbon group, which has no unfavorable effect on the activity of the catalyst and is chosen from alkyl groups having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms inclusive, optionally substituted with at least one halogen atom, and from aryl groups;

- d is 1 or 2, e is 0, 1 or 2 and d + e has a value between 1 and 3;

- optionally, at least one portion of the other units being units of average formula:

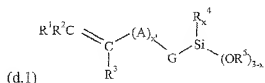


in which L has the same meaning as above and g has a value between 0 and 3.

29. (New) The composite of claim 25, obtained from an impregnating silicone composition wherein the proportions of (a) and of (b) are such that the molar ratio of the hydrogen atoms linked to the silicon in (b) to the alkenyl radicals linked to the silicon in (a) is between 0.4 and 10.

30. (New) The composite of claim 25, obtained from an impregnating silicone composition wherein the adhesion promoter comprises:

(d.1) at least one alkoxyated organosilane satisfying the following general formula:



in which:

- R^1 , R^2 , R^3 are hydrogenated or hydrocarbon radicals, which are the same or differ from one another and represent hydrogen, a C_1 - C_4 linear branched alkyl or a phenyl optionally substituted with at least one C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

- A is a C_1 - C_4 linear or branched alkylene;

- G is a valency bond;

- R^4 and R^5 are radicals, which are identical or different and represent a linear or branched C_1 - C_4 alkyl;

- $x' = 0$ or 1; and

- $x = 0$ to 2;

(d.2) at least one organosilicon compound comprising at least one epoxy radical; and

(d.3) at least one metal M chelate and/or a metal alkoxide of general formula $M(OJ)_n$, where n is the valency of M and J is a C_1 - C_8 linear or branched alkyl, M being chosen from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Ge, Li, Mn, Fe, Al and Mg.

31. (New) The composite of claim 25, obtained from an impregnating silicone composition wherein the adhesion promoter is present in an amount of 0.1 to 10% by weight relative to all of the constituents.

32. (New) In a method for forming a composite having a capillary rise of less than 20 mm, measured according to a T test, by impregnation of a fibrous material, excluding architectural textiles, right to the core with a crosslinkable silicone composition, the improvement consists in:

o impregnating the fibrous material by having a silicone composition penetrate into said support under pressure, said silicone composition:

- being crosslinkable into an elastomer;
- which comprises:
 - (a) at least one polyorganosiloxane (POS) having, per molecule, at least two alkenyl, groups linked to the silicon;
 - (b) at least one polyorganosiloxane having, per molecule, at least three hydrogen atoms linked to the silicon;
 - (c) a catalytically effective quantity of at least one catalyst;
 - (d) optionally, at least one adhesion promoter;
 - (e) optionally, a mineral filler;
 - (f) optionally, at least one crosslinking inhibitor;

(g) optionally, at least one polyorganosiloxane resin;

and

(h) optionally, functional additives in order to impart specific properties;

- which has a dynamic viscosity of between 1000 and 7000 mPa.s at 25°C before crosslinking;
- and which has, after complete crosslinking by curing in a fan oven for 30 minutes at 150°C, at least one of the following mechanical properties:
 - a Shore A hardness of at least two,
 - a tensile strength of at least 0.5 N.mm⁻¹, and
 - an elongation at break of at least 50%;

o and crosslinking said silicone composition.